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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *18 January 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-4,6-31 and 33-70* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-4,6-25,28-31 and 33-70* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) *26 and 27* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-4, 6-31, and 33-70 are currently presented and
have been examined.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 18 January 2006 have been fully
considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues that Hundscheidt does not disclose
that the access server is operated by a network service
provider. Hundscheidt does disclose this limitation (paragraph
0024).

The Applicant also argues that the offload server as taught
within Hundscheidt does not include the session identifier in a
first request sent to an AAA module or the RADIUS server as
disclosed in Hundscheidt since the MSC appears to be unable to
communicate with the RADIUS server. Hundscheidt does disclose
the limitations as claimed (paragraph 0039, 0040, and 0049) (see
also paragraphs 0022, 0032, and 0043)

The Applicant also argues that Hundscheidt does not teach
wherein the offload server assigns the session identifier value
if one is not provided. As shown previously in the disclosures
of Hundscheidt, the offload server may be integrated with at
least the functionality of an access server and, as shown in

"RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt (paragraphs 0017-0018), the access

server assigns this value.

The Applicant also argues that Hundscheidt does not teach

wherein the offload server provides at least a plurality of

services to the network access server. Again, Hundscheidt

discloses wherein the offload server may be integrated with an

access server. Hundscheidt does disclose wherein the offload

server provides at least a plurality of services to the network

access server (paragraphs 0002 and 0017).

Therefore, the presently presented claims are not in

condition for allowance and are subject to the rejections as

previously shown by the Examiner and the Examiner's response to

the Applicant's arguments as shown in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which

forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this

Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically
> disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the
> differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior
> art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at
> the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the
> art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be
> negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* **v.** *John Deere*

Co., 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for

establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1.   Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2.   Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and
      the claims at issue.
3.   Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent
      art.
4.   Considering objective evidence present in the
      application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In

considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a),

the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various

claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered

therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to

point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that

was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in

order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35

U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior

art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1, 3, 6-10, 12-17, 19-21, 23-24, 26-28, 30, 33-37,

39-44, 46, 48, 51-55, 57-62, and 64-70 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Request for Comments

2866: RADIUS Accounting" ("RFC 2866") in view of European Patent

Application Publication EP 1 014 619 A1 to Hundscheidt et al.

Regarding claim 1, "RFC 2866" discloses a method for
maintaining a common session identifier in a network,
comprising:

associating a session identifier ("Acct-Session ID") with a
user, wherein the session identifier is associated with the user
by a network access server, and the network access server is
configured to include the session identifier in a first request
sent to an AAA module (section 4.1 "Accounting-Request",
specifically "Accounting-Request packets are sent from a client
(typically a Network Access Server...) to a RADIUS accounting
server and convey information used to provide accounting for
service provided to a user...; pages 15-16, section 5.5, "Acct-
Session-Id", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST
have an Acct-Session-Id").

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose providing the
session identifier to an off-load server, wherein an offload
server is configured to establish a network connection between
communication equipment operated by the user and a server
operated by a network service provider, and the off-load server
is configured to include the session identifier in a second
request sent to the AAA module, however, Hundscheidt does
disclose these limitations (the "MSC" being the offload server)
(paragraphs 0012, 0017, 0028, 0032, 0039, 0040, and 0049)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of these references since Hundscheidt discloses that using an offload server to establish a network connection between communication equipment operated by the user and a server operated by a network service provider enables the user to access the network service provider from a separate network (paragraphs 0012 and 0032). In view of these specific advantages and that the references are directed using access servers and accounting servers to establish and account for network connections, one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to combine these references and would have considered them to be analogous to one another based on their related fields of endeavor, which would lead one of ordinary skill to reasonably expect a successful combination of the teachings.

Regarding claim 3, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 1.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose wherein providing the session identifier further comprises providing the session identifier in a session setup request ("Accounting Request" or "Accounting Start"), however, "RFC 2866" does disclose providing the session identifier in a session setup request (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "When a client is

configured to use RADIUS accounting, at the start of service

delivery it will generate an Accounting start packet...").

Hundscheidt discloses wherein providing the session

identifier further comprises providing the session identifier in

a session setup request (paragraph 0017).

Claim 3 is rejected since the motivations regarding the

obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 3.

Regarding claim 6, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the

method recited in Claim 1.

"RFC 2866" discloses the method further comprising

associating a start record with the session identifier. (page 4,

section 2. "Operation", specifically "When a client is

configured to use RADIUS accounting, at the start of service

delivery it will generate an Accounting start packet...")

Regarding claim 7, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the

method recited in Claim 6.

"RFC 2866" discloses the method further comprising

providing the start record to an AAA module ("RADIUS Accounting

server"). (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "When a

client is configured to use RADIUS accounting, at the start of

service delivery it will generate an Accounting start

packet...and will send that to the RADIUS Accounting server...")

Regarding claim 8, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 1.

"RFC 2866" discloses the method further comprising associating a stop record with the session identifier. (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "At the end of service delivery the client will generate an Accounting Stop packet...")

Regarding claim 9, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 8.

"RFC 2866" discloses the method further comprising providing the stop record to an AAA module. (page 4, section 2 "Operation", specifically "At the end of service delivery the client will generate an Accounting Stop packet...It will send [the packet] to the RADIUS Accounting server...")

Regarding claim 10, "RFC 2866" discloses a method for maintaining a common session identifier in a network, comprising wherein the access server is configured to perform pre-authentication processing for a user (section 4.1 "Accounting-Request", specifically "Accounting-Request packets are sent from a client (typically a Network Access Server...)...and convey information used to provide accounting for service provided to a user...)

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose determining whether a session identifier value is provided by an access server to an

off-load server, and the off-load server is configured to
establish a network connection between communication equipment
operated by the user and a server operated by a network service
provider and assigning, if the session identifier value is not
provided by the access server to the off-load server, the
session identifier value to the user, wherein the assigning is
performed by the off-load server, however, Hundscheidt does
disclose these limitations (paragraphs 0017, 0020, 0028, and
0032)

Claim 10 is rejected since the motivations regarding the
obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 10.

Regarding claim 12, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the
method recited in Claim 10.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose wherein determining
whether the session identifier value is provided by the access
server further comprises determining whether the session
identifier value is contained within a non-required parameter
string provided by the access server, however, Hundscheidt does
disclose this limitation (paragraphs 0017 and 0018)

Claim 12 is rejected since the motivations regarding the
obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 12.

Regarding claim 13, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the
method recited in Claim 10.

"RFC 2866" discloses associating a start record with the session identifier (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting start packet...")..

Regarding claim 14, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 13.

"RFC 2866" discloses providing the start record to a software module that provides for performing accounting processing (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting start packet...and will send that to the RADIUS Accounting server...").

Regarding claim 15, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 10.

"RFC 2866" discloses associating a stop record with the session identifier (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "At the end of service delivery the client will generate an Accounting Stop packet...").

Regarding claim 16, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 15.

· "RFC 2866" discloses providing the stop record to a
software module that provides for performing accounting
processing (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "At the
end of service delivery the client will generate an Accounting
Stop packet...It will send [the packet] to the RADIUS Accounting
server...")

Regarding claim 17, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the
method recited in Claim 10.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose providing the
session identifier from the access server to an off-load server,
however, Hundscheidt does disclose this limitation (paragraphs
0012, 0017, 0028 and 0032).

Claim 17 is rejected since the motivations regarding the
obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 17.

Regarding claim 19, "RFC 2866" discloses a system,
comprising:

a network access server, wherein the network access server
is configured to generate a session identifier (section 4.1
"Accounting-Request", specifically "Accounting-Request packets
are sent from a client (typically a Network Access
Server...)...and convey information used to provide accounting
for service provided to a user...; pages 15-16, section 5.5,

"Acct-Session-Id", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-Id").

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose the network access server being further configured to provide the session identifier to an off load server, wherein a off-load server is configured to establish a network connection between communication equipment operated by a user and a server operated by a network service provider, and both the network access server and the off-load server are configured to send the session identifier to an AAA module, however, Hundscheidt does disclose these limitations (paragraphs 0010, 0012, 0028, and 0032)

Claim 19 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 19.

Regarding claim 20, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the system recited in Claim 19.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose the system further comprising an off-load server, the off-load server being coupled to receive the session identifier from the network access server, however, Hundscheidt does disclose this limitation (paragraph 0017)

Claim 20 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 20.

Regarding claim 21, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the system recited in Claim 19.

"RFC 2866" discloses the system further comprising the AAA module that is configured to perform authentication, the module being further configured to receive the session identifier from the network access server. (pages 8-9, section 2.3, "Proxy", specifically on page 8, "one RADIUS server receives and authentication (or accounting) request..." and on page 9,"A RADIUS server can function as both a forwarding server and a remote server...","1. The NAS sends an accounting-request to the forwarding server", "2. The forwarding server forwards the access request to the remote server.")

Regarding claim 26, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the system recited in claim 23.

"RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt do not expressly disclose wherein the offload server is further configured to generate a start record, the off-load server being further configured to associates the start record with the session identifier; the off-load server is further configured to provide the start record to the AAA module, however, "RFC 2866" does disclose wherein a network access server generates a start record and associate the start record with the session identifier (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "When a client is

configured to use RADIUS accounting, at the start of service

delivery it will generate an Accounting start packet...") and

provides the start record to an AAA module (page 4, section 2.

"Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use

RADIUS accounting, at the start of service delivery it will

generate an Accounting start packet...and will send that to the

RADIUS Accounting server...") and Hundscheidt discloses wherein

the off-load server may include network access server

functionality (paragraph 0032).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings

of these references since Hundscheidt suggests that the off-load

server may include network access server functionality and "RFC

2866" teaches that a network access server generates a start

record, associates the start record with the session identifier,

and provides the start record to an AAA module as shown above.

In view of these suggestions and teachings shown above, one of

ordinary skill would have found it obvious to modify the

reference so that the off-load server taught in Hundscheidt

would have the network server functionality as suggested in

Hundscheidt to generates a start record and associate the start

record with the session identifier as taught in "RFC 2866".

Regarding claim 27, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the
system recited in claim 23.

"RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt do not expressly disclose
wherein the offload server is further configured to generate a
stop record, the off-load server being further configured to
associate the stop record with the session identifier; the off-
load server is further configured to provide the stop record to
the AAA module, however, "RFC 2866" does disclose wherein a
network access server generates a stop record and associates the
stop record with the session identifier (page 4, section 2.
"Operation", specifically "At the end of service delivery the
client will generate an Accounting Stop packet...") and provides
the stop record to an AAA module (page 4, section 2
"Operation", specifically "At the end of service delivery the
client will generate an Accounting Stop packet...It will send
[the packet] to the RADIUS Accounting server...") and
Hundscheidt discloses wherein the off-load server may include
network access server functionality (paragraph 0032).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the
art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings
of these references since Hundscheidt suggests that the off-load
server may include network access server functionality and "RFC
2866" teaches that a network access server generates a stop

record, associates the stop record with the session identifier,

and provides the stop record to an AAA module as shown above. In

view of these suggestions and teachings shown above, one of

ordinary skill would have found it obvious to modify the

reference so that the off-load server taught in Hundscheidt

would have the network server functionality as suggested in

Hundscheidt to generates a stop record and associate the stop

record with the session identifier as taught in "RFC 2866".

Regarding claim 64, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose

the method of claim 64.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose wherein the off-load

server provides one of Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP), Serial

Line Internet Protocol (SLIP), Multipoint Point-to-Point

Protocol, and PPP over Ethernet (PPPoE) service to the network

access server, however, Hundscheidt does disclose this

limitation (paragraphs 0010, 0011, and 0032)

Claim 64 is rejected since the motivations regarding the

obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 64.

Regarding claim 65, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the

method of claim 64.

"RFC 2866" discloses the method further comprising

assigning the session identifier to a call and sending an access

request to an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting

server, wherein the access request comprises the session

identifier and a Dialed Number Identification Service (DNIS)

number associated with the call (section 5.13 "Table of

Attributes", specifically "The following table provides a guide

to which attributes may be found in Accounting-Request

packets...Acct-Session-ID...Called-Station-ID"), and the

assigning, the providing, and the sending are performed by a

network access server (section 4.1 "Accounting-Request",

specifically "Accounting-Request packets are sent from a client

(typically a Network Access Server...) to a RADIUS accounting

server...").

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose assigning the

session identifier to a call prior to providing the session

identifier to the off-load server, however, Hundscheidt does

disclose this limitation (paragraphs 0037 and 0038).

Claim 65 is rejected since the motivations regarding the

obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 65.

Regarding claim 66, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the

method of claim 65.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose the method further

comprising sending a second access request from the off-load

server to the AAA server, wherein the second access request

comprises the session identifier and username associated with

the call, however, Hundscheidt does disclose this limitation

(paragraphs 0039 and 0040).

Claim 66 is rejected since the motivations regarding the

obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 66.

Regarding claim 67, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the

method of claim 1.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose the method further

comprising both the network access server and the off-load

server sending the session identifier to an Authentication,

Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) module, however, Hundscheidt

does disclose this limitation (paragraphs 0010, 0012, 0028, and

0032)

Claim 67 is rejected since the motivations regarding the

obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 67.

Regarding claim 68, "RFC 2866" discloses a method

comprising assigning a session identifier to a call detected by

a network access server (section 4.1 "Accounting-Request",

specifically "Accounting-Request packets are sent from a client

(typically a Network Access Server...)...and convey information

used to provide accounting for service provided to a user...;

pages 15-16, section 5.5, "Acct-Session-Id", specifically "An

Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-Id").

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose providing the session

identifier from the network access server to an off-load server,

wherein the off-load server provides one of Point-to-Point

Protocol (PPP), Serial Line Internet Protocol (SLIP), Multipoint

Point-to-Point Protocol, and PPP over Ethernet (PPPoE) service

to the network access server, however, Hundscheidt does disclose

this limitation (paragraphs 0010-0012, 0017, 0028 and 0032)

Claim 68 is rejected since the motivations regarding the

obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 68.

Regarding claim 69, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the

method of claim 68.

"RFC 2866" discloses the method further comprising sending

an access request to an Authentication, Authorization, and

Accounting (AAA) server, wherein the access request comprises

the session identifier and a Dialed Number Identification

Service (DNIS) number associated with the call (section 5.13

"Table of Attributes", specifically "The following table

provides a guide to which attributes may be found in Accounting-

Request packets...Acct-Session-ID...Called-Station-ID"), and the

assigning, the providing, and the sending are performed by the

network access server. (section 4.1 "Accounting-Request",

specifically "Accounting-Request packets are sent from a client

(typically a Network Access Server...) to a RADIUS accounting

server...")

Regarding claim 70, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the

method of claim 69.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose the method further

comprising sending a second access request from the off-load

server to the AAA server, wherein the second access request

comprises the session identifier and a username associated with

the call, however, Hundscheidt does disclose this limitation

(paragraphs 0039 and 0040).

Claim 70 is rejected since the motivations regarding the

obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 70.

Claims 28, 30, and 33-36 are also rejected since these

claims recite an apparatus that contain substantially the same

limitations as recited in claims 1, 3, and 6-9 respectively.

Claims 46, 48, and 51-54 are also rejected since these

claims recite a computer program product that contain

substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 1, 3,

and 6-9 respectively.

Claims 37, 39, 55, and 57 are also rejected since these

claims recite an apparatus and a computer program product which

contain substantially the same limitations as recited in claims

10 and 12 respectively.

Claims 40-44 and 58-62 are also rejected since these claims recite an apparatus and computer program product that contain substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 13-17.

Claims 23-24 are also rejected since these claims recite a system that contain substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 19 and 21 respectively.

1.   Claims 2, 4, 11, 18, 22, 25, 29, 31, 38, 45, 47, 49-50, 56, and 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt, and further in view of "Request for Comments 2867: RADIUS Accounting Modifications for Tunnel Protocol Support" ("RFC 2867").

Regarding claim 2, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 1.

"RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt do not expressly disclose wherein providing the session identifier further comprises providing the session identifier as a non-required parameter in accordance with a tunnel protocol, however, Hundscheidt does disclose providing the session identifier further comprises providing the session identifier as a non-required parameter (paragraphs 0017 and 0018).

"RFC 2867" discloses providing the session identifier as a non-required parameter in accordance with a tunnel protocol

(page 2, section 2, "Implementation Notes", specifically the paragraph beginning "In auditing, the User-Name...")

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of these references since "RFC 2867" discloses that inspecting a parameter list for the session identifier value enables tunneling protocols to be used (page 7, section 4.1, "Acct-Tunnel-Connection"). In view of these specific advantages and that the references are directed to using access servers and accounting servers to establish and account for network connections, one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to combine these references and would have considered them to be analogous to one another based on their related fields of endeavor, which would lead one of ordinary skill to reasonably expect a successful combination of the teachings.

Regarding claim 4, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 1.

"RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt do not expressly disclose determining whether the session identifier is provided as a non-required parameter in accordance with a tunnel protocol, however, Hundscheidt does disclose providing the session identifier further comprises providing the session identifier as a non-required parameter (paragraphs 0017 and 0018).

"RFC 2867" does disclose determining whether the session

identifier is provided as a non-required parameter in accordance

with a tunnel protocol (page 2, section 2, "Implementation

Notes", specifically the paragraph beginning "In auditing, the

User-Name...")

Claim 4 is rejected since the motivations regarding the

obviousness of claim 2 also apply to claim 4.

Regarding claim 11, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the

method recited in Claim 10.

"RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt do not expressly disclose the

method further comprising inspecting a parameter list for the

session identifier value, however, "RFC 2867" does disclose this

limitation (page 7, section 4.1, "Acct-Tunnel-Connection",

specifically the paragraph denoted "String")

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings

of these references since "RFC 2867" discloses that inspecting a

parameter list for the session identifier value enables

tunneling protocols to be used (page 7, section 4.1, "Acct-

Tunnel-Connection"). In view of these specific advantages and

that the references are directed to using access servers and

accounting servers to establish and account for network

connections, one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to

combine these references and would have considered them to be
analogous to one another based on their related fields of
endeavor, which would lead one of ordinary skill to reasonably
expect a successful combination of the teachings.

Regarding claim 18, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the
method recited in Claim 17.

"RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt do not expressly disclose
providing the session identifier further comprises providing the
session identifier as a non-required parameter in accordance
with a tunnel protocol, however, "RFC 2867" does disclose this
limitation (page 2, section 2, "Implementation Notes",
specifically the paragraph beginning "In auditing, the User-
Name...")

Claim 18 is rejected since the motivations regarding the
obviousness of claim 2 also apply to claim 18.

Regarding claim 22, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the
system recited in Claim 19.

"RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt do not expressly disclose
wherein the network access server is further configured to
provide the session in a non-required parameter list according
to a tunnel protocol, however, "RFC 2867" does disclose these
limitations (page 2, section 2, "Implementation Notes",

specifically the paragraph beginning "In auditing, the User-

Name...")

Claim 22 is rejected since the motivations regarding the

obviousness of claim 2 also apply to claim 22.

Claims 29 and 31 are also rejected since these claims

recite an apparatus that contain substantially the same

limitations as recited in claims 2 and 4 respectively.

Claims 47 and 49-50 are also rejected since these claims

recite a computer program product that contain substantially the

same limitations as recited in claims 2 and 4-5 respectively.

Claims 38 and 56 are also rejected since these claims

recite an apparatus and a computer program product which contain

substantially the same limitations as recited in claim 11

respectively.

Claims 45 and 63 are also rejected since this claim recites

an apparatus and a computer program product which contain

substantially the same limitations as recited in claim 18

respectively.

Claim 25 is also rejected since this claims recites a

system that contains substantially the same limitations as

recited in claim 22.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 26 and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art of record does not teach or suggest wherein an offload server configured to establish a network connection between the communication equipment operated by a user and a server operated by a network service provider generates a stop or start record and provides the record to an AAA module.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,
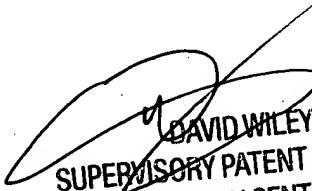
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than
SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier
communications from the examiner should be directed to George C.
Neurauter, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3918. The
examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from
9AM to 5:30PM Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are
unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be
reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the
organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is
571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be
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gcn

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